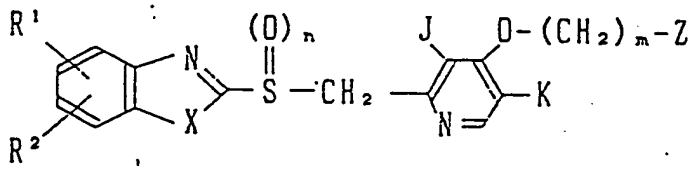
What is claimed is:

1. A pyridine derivative represented by the general formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different from each other and each stand for a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogenated lower alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl or carboxyl group or a halogen atom;

X stands for a group represented by the formula: -O-, -S- or $-\underset{\underset{R^3}{|}}{N}-$ (wherein R^3 stands for a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or lower alkoxycarbonyl group);

Z stands for

① a group represented by the general formula:

$$-O(CH_2)_p-O-R^4$$

wherein p stands for an integer of 1 to 3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl, aryl or aralkyl group,

② a group represented by the general formula:

$$-O-(CH_2)_q-R^5$$

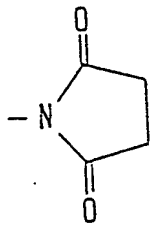
wherein q stands for an integer of 1 to 3 and R^5 stands for a halogen atom or an alkoxycarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl group,

③ a group represented by the general formula:

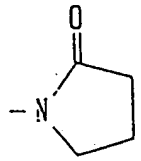
$$-O-(CH_2)_r-O-(CH_2)_s-O-R^6$$

wherein r and s each stand for an integer of 1 to 5 and R^6 stands for a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group,

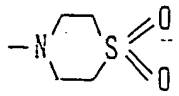
④ a group represented by the formula:



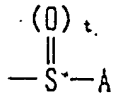
⑤ a group represented by the formula:



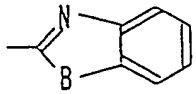
⑥ a group represented by the formula:



⑦ a group repreesnted by the general formula:



wherein t stands for an integer of 0 to 2 and A stands for a group represented by the general formula:



(wherein B stands for a group represented by the formula: -NH-, -O- or -S-), a lower alkyl, alkoxycarbonylmethyl, pyridyl or furyl group or a group represented by the general formula: